



# Relationships: LOVE

## *Small Group Questions*

### **Introduction:**

PLAY Nooma “Flame” video with Rob Bell. In this movie, Rob defines love Biblically and thoroughly. He gives three flames that produce the eventual bonfire of well rounded LOVE. Those flames are: “Raya” (Friendship love) “Ahavah” (Romantic, deep love) and “Dode” (Sexual Love). All a necessary components of true love, the way God intended. The trouble is, we mess with love way too much. We give too much attention to other flames at the expense of others and in effect this backfires on us and causes our Love bonfire to dwindle or never exist. God has created us with the capacity to love and to be loved. He has perfectly designed love so that it will speak to us as a whole person. Love is deep, love is good! God loves us and gives us His word as a map to experience, receive and give love in the manner it works best!

### **Discussion:**

- When you think of the Raya (Friendship love flame) who or what comes to mind?
- Why is love such an important part of our lives?
- What are some things (like “tacos” in the movie) that you say you love?
- How can you love things and people? Is it the same kind of love? Why not?

### **Explanation:**

Love can be a touchy subject for some of us. We may or may not have experienced love the way it was meant to be experienced, but love is such a deep part of the Bible and so much a part of what God is about!

- God loves you deeply (think of the ahavah flame). How can we experience God’s love for us?
- What does it mean to you that God loves you deeply and intimately?
- How can we begin to love others the way that God loves us? What would that look like?

### **Application:**

- READ 1 John 4:10- What does this mean about what love is?
- READ 1 John 4:8- What does this mean about our relationship with God?
- FOR TAKE HOME: Challenge the teens to read 1 Corinthians 13:1 and ask themselves how important is love? AND do I love?



# Relationships

## *Small Group Questions*

### **Introduction:**

Last week, we delved into the whole discussion about Love. In the “Flame” video, we took a look at three flames of love: Raya, Ahavah and Dode. Tonight, we are going to discuss the Raya flame. Friendship love. Sometimes the friends we have can determine what we end up doing in our lives. Samson never really had the whole relationship thing down (Tell Story of Samson and Delilah from Judges 16:1-21). Samson was duped into thinking Delilah loved him, when in reality she was using him to get money. Not only can we have bad friends, but we can be bad friends. Lastly, I feel it is **HIGHLY** important for a guy to have good guy friends and a girl to have good girl friends. Igniting a raya flame with someone of an opposite gender always brings about ridicule, or temptations. In your Middle School, if you saw a guy and a girl talking all the time, you would say what? Yea, you’d start singing the “k-i-s-s-i-n-g song. They’d be forced to be “more” than friends and it would ruin the good friendship those two had. It’s not bad to have friends that are a different gender, but if all you have are friends of the opposite gender, you’re **MISSING** out on something!

### **Discussion:**

- What do you think Samson’s problem was?
- What kind of friends do you hang out with? (It’s OK to be honest)
- If you had a label attached to your shirt saying what type of friend **YOU** are, what would the label say? Why?

### **Explanation:**

The people we choose to have relationships can effect you and what you end up doing. Being wise with our friends as well as strategic can be good for us as people. Having only friends of the opposite gender can be dangerous and unwise, men need men and women need women!

- How many same-gender friends do you have? How many opposite gender friends do you have?
- If you were to give a scale from 1-10 1 being bad and 10 being good, what kind of influence do your friends have on you? (It’s OK to be honest)
- What role do you think God plays in your friendships? Why?

### **Application:**

- READ Proverbs 12:26- When you read this verse, what strikes you about how to choose friends?
- FOR TAKE HOME: Challenge the teens to read Proverbs 17:9 and then ask themselves if they are a friend who “covers over offenses” or not. How can they incorporate love into their relationships?



# Relationships: Dating

## *Small Group Questions*

### **Introduction:**

Open with a series of “love stories” in my own life (Meghan Diner, girl at the YMCA). Sometimes, girls can drive guys to do stupid things and vice versa. Although it doesn’t make much sense, we go after girls or guys to “get with them”, “go out with them” or for them to be your girl/boy friend. Let’s define dating a bit. Dating is two people who desire to have a more “intimate relationship” together than the normal friendship. This includes spending extra time together one on one, this includes physical intimacy like holding hands, kissing or more. Lastly, it also includes an emotional response of infatuation, never wanting to be w/o this person or the buying of excess gifts for a certain person, because dating is not just physical and time giving, but also emotional. Does the Bible say anything about dating? YES! Song of Solomon 8:4 says: “Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.” and Matthew 26:41 says: “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” These have HUGE implications with dating

### **Discussion:**

- Why is dating so important to teens your age? (If they say “it isn’t a big deal, as them why not)
- How could temptation creep into dating relationships?
- Have you experienced temptation in dating? (If they say they’ve never dated, maybe ask them why they made that choice)

### **Explanation:**

Today in youth culture, it can seem like without a boyfriend or a girlfriend you are a loser, or you are less important/cool as some one who has a boyfriend/girlfriend. God has different ideas about dating than the world does though. It’s meant to be something special, something that helps you find your future spouse...it’s not a fast food, meal like it has been treated like.

- What do you think the point of dating is in your school?
- Why do we sometimes feel we “just need a girlfriend/boyfriend?”
- What role do you think God plays in dating and marriage? Why?

### **Application:**

-Love is a BIG deal when it comes to dealing with God and the opposite gender, why would the Bible say: “do not awaken love until it’s time?”

-READ John 15:13- Who do you love this much?

-FOR TAKE HOME: Dating is not only a personal choice at your age, you must have a conversation with your parents about dating. If you aren’t willing to listen to what they have to say and follow their rules on dating, nor listen to what God has to say, the dating game will leave you empty. CHALLENGE the teens to talk to their parents about dating.